

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information handling system comprising:
 - a modem;
 - a first telephony device coupled to the modem; and
 - a first network device coupled to the modem through the first telephony device, wherein the first telephony device includes first circuitry for throttling data sent from the first network device.
2. The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - a router coupled between the first telephony device and the modem; and
 - a second network device coupled to the router through a second telephony device, wherein the second telephony device includes second circuitry for throttling data sent from the second network device.
3. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the router, modem, first telephony device, and first network device are coupled to each other via a network.
4. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is a TCP/IP network.
5. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the network is a packet switched network.
6. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first telephony device communicates using an IP protocol.

1 7. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first throttling circuitry reduces a
2 future amount of data from being transferred from the first network device if the
3 amount of data exceeds a predetermined threshold.

1 8. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first telephony device includes
2 circuitry for monitoring an amount of data addressed to and received by the first
3 telephony device, wherein the first throttling circuitry reduces a future amount of data
4 from being transferred from the first network device if the amount of data addressed
5 to and received by the first telephony device falls below a predetermined threshold.

1 9. The system as recited in claim 8, wherein the monitoring circuitry comprises a
2 jitter buffer where the predetermined threshold is a predetermined level within the
3 jitter buffer.

1 10. The system as recited in claim 8, wherein the first throttling circuitry has a
2 plurality of throttling levels.

1 11. The system as recited in claim 8, wherein the first throttling circuitry includes
2 a mode level in which the first throttling circuitry should operate.

1 12. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the first throttling circuitry adjusts
2 its level of throttling of the data in response to the mode level.

1 13. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the mode level is a most aggressive
2 mode, wherein the first throttling circuitry will throttle the future amount of data sent
3 from the first network device at a highest level in response to the mode level being in
4 the most aggressive mode.

1 14. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the data sent from the first network
2 device is sufficiently throttled so that the first telephony device can communicate
3 real-time multimedia signals to and from the modem.

1 15. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the modem is operable for coupling
2 to a wide area network.

1 16. In an information handling system comprising a modem, a telephone coupled
2 to the modem, and a workstation coupled to the modem through the telephone, a
3 method comprising the steps of:

4 transferring data from the workstation to the telephone, wherein the data sent
5 from the workstation is addressed for transmission to a network via the modem;
6 communicating audio information between the telephone and the network; and
7 sufficiently throttling the data sent from the workstation to the telephone to
8 increase a rate of transfer of the audio information during the communicating step.

1 17. The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the network is a TCP/IP network.

1 18. The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the network is a packet switched
2 network.

1 19. The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the throttling step further
2 comprises the step of reducing a future amount of data from being transferred from
3 the workstation if the amount of data exceeds a predetermined threshold.

1 20. The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the throttling step further
2 comprises the step of monitoring an amount of the audio information being received
3 by the telephone.

1 21. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the monitoring step further
2 comprises the step of monitoring a predetermined level within a jitter buffer.

1 22. In an information handling system comprising a telephony device coupled
2 between a network device and a modem, wherein the modem is coupled to a wide
3 area network, a method comprising the steps of:

4 transferring data from the network device to the telephony device where the
5 data is addressed for transmission through the telephony device to the wide area
6 network via the modem;

7 communicating multimedia information between the telephony device and the
8 wide area network; and

9 sufficiently throttling the data from the network device to the telephone device
10 to increase available bandwidth for communication of the multimedia information
11 between the telephony device and the wide area network.

12 23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the throttling step reduces a future
13 amount of data from being transferred from the network device to the telephony
14 device if an amount of data being transferred from the network device exceeds a
predetermined threshold.

1 24. The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the throttling step monitors a jitter
2 buffer level to determine if the amount of data being transferred from the network
3 device exceeds the predetermined threshold.

1 25. The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the network device is a
2 workstation and the telephony device is a digital telephone.

1 26. The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the telephony device is an IP
2 telephone with level 2 switching circuitry.

1 27. The method as recited in claim 26, wherein the network device is a
2 workstation.

1 28. The method as recited in claim 27, wherein the modem communicates the data
2 and the multimedia information to the wide area network.

1 29. The method as recited in claim 28, wherein a router is coupled between the
2 modem and telephony device.

1 30. A telephony device comprising:
2 an input data port for receiving data, wherein the data is addressed for
3 transmission to a location other than the telephony device through an output port on
4 the telephony device;
5 circuitry for communicating information to and from the telephony device;
6 a jitter buffer; and
7 circuitry for sufficiently throttling the data in response to a predetermined
8 level being exceeded withing the jitter buffer so that the communication of the
9 information can be performed in real-time.

1 31. The telephony device as recited in claim 30, wherein the jitter buffer
2 temporarily stores the information.

1 32. The telephony device as recited in claim 30, further comprising:
2 level 2 switching circuitry for handling the information and data.

1 33. The telephony device as recited in claim 30, wherein the data and the
2 information are communicated using IP protocol.

1 34. The telephony device as recited in claim 30, wherein the predetermined level
2 in the jitter buffer is an amount of the information temporarily stored in the jitter
3 buffer.

1 35. A system comprising:
2 a wide area network ("WAN");
3 a first modem for coupling to the WAN;
4 a first IP telephone coupled to the first modem;
5 a first network device coupled to the first modem via the first IP telephone so
6 that data communicated between the first network device and the first modem is
7 switched through the first IP telephone; and
8 a second IP telephone coupled to the WAN,
9 wherein the first IP telephone includes circuitry for throttling the data
10 communicated between the first network device and the first modem so as to increase
11 a bandwidth in a connection coupling the first IP telephone to the first modem.

1 36. The system as recited in claim 35, wherein multimedia information
2 communicated between the WAN and the first IP telephone and the data travel over
3 the connection coupling the first IP telephone to the first modem.

1 37. The system as recited in claim 36, wherein the multimedia information and the
2 data occupy the same bandwidth between the first IP telephone and the first modem.

1 38. The system as recited in claim 35, further comprising:
2 a router coupling the first IP telephone to the first modem.

1 39. The system as recited in claim 38, further comprising:
2 a third IP telephone coupled to the router;

3 a second network device coupled to the first modem via the third IP telephone
4 so that data communicated between the second network device and the first modem is
5 switched through the third IP telephone,

6 wherein the third IP telephone includes circuitry for throttling the data
7 communicated between the second network device and the first modem so as to
8 increase a bandwidth in a connection coupling the third IP telephone to the first
9 modem.

10 40. The system as recited in claim 37, wherein the multimedia information is
11 communicated over the WAN between the first and second IP telephones.

12 41. The system as recited in claim 35, further comprising:

13 a second modem for coupling to the WAN, wherein the second IP telephone is
14 coupled to the second modem; and

15 a second network device coupled to the second modem via the second IP
16 telephone so that data communicated between the second network device and the
17 second modem is switched through the second IP telephone,

18 wherein the second IP telephone includes circuitry for throttling the data
19 communicated between the second network device and the second modem so as to
20 increase a bandwidth in a connection coupling the second IP telephone to the second
21 modem.

22 42. The system as recited in claim 35, further comprising:

23 a router coupled to the WAN;

3 a hub coupled to the router, wherein the second IP telephone is coupled to the
4 router via the hub; and

5 a second network device coupled to the hub via the second IP telephone,
6 wherein the second IP telephone includes circuitry for throttling the data
7 communicated between the second network device and the hub so as to increase a
8 bandwidth in a connection coupling the second IP telephone to the hub.

1 43. The system as recited in claim 42, further comprising:

2 a data server coupled to the hub, wherein the data is communicated between
3 the second network device and the data server.

4 44. The system as recited in claim 43, wherein data is also communicated between
5 the first network device and the data server over the WAN.

6 45. The system as recited in claim 42, further comprising:

7 a multimedia server for communicating multimedia information between the
8 second IP telephone and public switched telephone network.

1 46. The system as recited in claim 45, wherein multimedia information is also
2 communicated between the first IP telephone and the public switched telephone
3 network over the WAN and via the multimedia server.